

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 and added dependent claims 22-24; claims 5 and 13-21 have been allowed. Thus, claims 1-4, 6-12 and 22-24 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response To Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 1 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Longo (USPN 3,607,343) in view of what would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that that the applied thermal barrier coating is porous. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 5 line 19-21. In contrast, Longo teaches away from this limitation by specifying that the invention is directed to a nonporous flame spray coating. See e.g. Col. 1 lines 21-36. Longo further explains that its coating intentionally provides a “substantial reduction in porosity” and may be considered “self-sealed” and “impermeable”. Col. 3 lines 29-37.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1, and claims 6-7, 4, 11 and 12, which depend thereon are patentable.

Claims 2-3 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Longo in view of Japan 2002-275615 (Japan ‘615).

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a declaration of prior inventorship under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to antedate and overcome the Japan '615 reference. In view of the 37 C.F.R. 1.131 declaration, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 2-3 and 8-10 is respectfully requested.

New Dependent Claims 22-24:

New dependent claims 22-24 further recite the claimed invention, and are patentable at least based on their dependency.

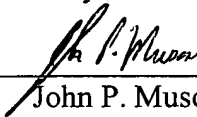
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20 for total claims in excess of 20, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
John P. Musone
Registration No. 44,961
(407) 736-6449